Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application with the following Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   **(Previously Presented)** A method of monitoring an element in a computer network, said method comprising:

monitoring a preselected variable relating to said element;

defining a threshold for the monitored preselected variable;

establishing a sliding window in time;

repeatedly generating a time above threshold value, said time above threshold value being a measure of an amount of time during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window of time, wherein the measure of the amount of time during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window in time includes an aggregation of two or more noncontiguous time intervals during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window in time;

detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds a predefined condition window value; and

in response to detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds said condition window, generating an alarm.

2.   **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising after generating an alarm, maintaining the alarm at least as long as the time above threshold value exceeds a clear window value.

3.   **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein said clear window value is equal to said condition window value.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

monitoring a plurality of variables relating to said element, said preselected variable being one of said plurality of variables; and

for each of the plurality of monitored variables, defining a corresponding threshold for that other variable, wherein the time above threshold value is a measure of an amount of time during which any one or more of the monitored variables exceeded its corresponding threshold during the corresponding sliding window of time.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of defining the threshold for the preselected variable comprises:

computing an average value for the preselected variable based on values obtained for the preselected variable over a corresponding prior period;

defining an excursion amount; and

setting the threshold equal to a sum of the average value plus the excursion amount.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the corresponding period of time is less than a day.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the corresponding period of time is a particular hour period of a day.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of computing the average comprises computing a mean value for the preselected variable using values obtained for that preselected variable for the same hour period of the same day of the week for a predetermined number of previous weeks.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of defining an excursion amount comprises:

computing a standard deviation for the preselected variable based on values obtained for the preselected variable over a predetermined period of time; and

setting the excursion amount equal to K times the computed standard deviation, wherein K is a positive number.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of computing the standard deviation comprises computing the standard deviation using values obtained for that preselected variable for the same hour period of the same day of the week for a predetermined number of previous weeks.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of defining the threshold for the preselected variable comprises:

defining an excursion amount; and

setting the threshold equal to H less the excursion amount, where H is a positive number.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of defining an excursion amount comprises:

computing a standard deviation for the preselected variable based on values obtained for the preselected variable over a predetermined period of time; and

setting the excursion amount equal to K times the computed standard deviation, wherein K is a positive number.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring an element in a computer network, said method comprising:

defining a profile for that element, said profile including a plurality of different alarm rules, each of said different alarm rules establishing an alarm test for a corresponding one or more variables;

detecting when the alarm test for any one or more of the plurality of different alarm rules is met;

repeatedly generating a time above threshold value, said time above threshold value being a measure of an amount of time during which at least one of the one or more alarm tests has been met during a preselected prior window of time, wherein the

measure of the amount of time during which at least one of the one or more alarm tests has been met during the preselected prior window of time includes an aggregation of two or more noncontiguous time intervals during which at least one of the one or more alarm tests has been met during a preselected prior window of time;

detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds a predefined condition window value; and

in response to detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds said condition window, generating an alarm.

14.   **(Original)** The method of claim 13 further comprising after generating an exception, maintaining that exception at least as long as the time above threshold value exceeds a clear window value.

15.   **(Cancel)**

16.   **(Previously Presented)** A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium for causing a computer system to perform the functions of:

monitoring a preselected variable relating to an element of a computer network;

defining a threshold for the monitored preselected variable;

establishing a sliding window in time;

repeatedly generating a time above threshold value, said time above threshold value being a measure of an amount of time during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window of time, wherein the measure of the amount of time during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window in time includes an aggregation of two or more noncontiguous time intervals during which the monitored variable exceeded the threshold during the sliding window in time;

detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds a predefined condition window value; and

in response to detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds said condition window, generating an alarm.

17.   **(Previously Presented)** A computer program for monitoring an element in a computer network, said program stored on a computer-readable medium for causing a computer system to perform the functions of:

defining a profile for that element, said profile including a plurality of different alarm rules, each of said different alarm rules establishing an alarm test for a corresponding one or more variables;

detecting when the alarm test for any one or more of the plurality of different alarm rules is met;

repeatedly generating a time above threshold value, said time above threshold value being a measure of an amount of time during which any one or more of the alarm tests has been met during a preselected prior window of time, wherein the measure of the amount of time during which any one or more of the alarm tests has been met during the preselected prior window of time includes an aggregation of two or more noncontiguous time intervals during which any one or more of the alarm tests has been met during the preselected prior window of time;

detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds a predefined condition window value; and

in response to detecting when the time above threshold value exceeds said condition window, generating an alarm.

18.   **(Cancel)**

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